

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----291849Z 023589 /41

P R 291757Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6107  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T CARACAS 14834

EXDIS

FOR ARA ASST SEC SHLAUDEMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PINT EC CI PE BL VE  
SUBJECT: PERU-CHILE-ECUADOR

REF: STATE 310852

1. I HAD TWO LONG CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ  
ON SUBJECT, ONE DURING TRIP TO ROCKEFELLER'S RANCH  
YESTERDAY AND THE OTHER AT BREAKFAST TODAY. CAP IN  
FACT RAISED THE SUBJECT HIMSELF BY ASKING ME RIGHT OFF  
IF I HAD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT TENSION BETWEEN ECUADOR  
AND PERU. I SUMMARIZED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS  
INFORMATION I HAD PER CABLES FORWARDED WITH REFTTEL.  
CAP SAID THAT HE HAD NOT REALIZED TENSION BETWEEN  
THE TWO HAD RISEN UNTIL HE HAD HAD A TELEPHONE  
CONVERSATION WITH ALFONSO LOPEZ THE PREVIOUS NIGHT  
(DECEMBER 27).

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2. THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNTHESIS OF THE POINTS CAP  
MADE IN THE TWO CONVERSATIONS:

A) HE IS CONVINCED NO RPT NO HOSTILITIES ARE  
IMMINENT. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE PERU HAS ANY

CONSCIOUS PLAN TO ATTACK ITS NEIGHBORS. HE IS CONVINCED MORALES BERMUDEZ IS A VERY RATIONAL MODERATE PERSON WHO WOULD NOT REACT THAT WAY TO PROBLEMS HE SEES WITH HIS NEIGHBORS.

B) HE BELIEVES ECUADOR MAY BE MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT TENSION. HE THINKS THE JUNTA MADE A BLUNDER IN NOT RECEIVING MORALES BERMUDEZ. MB WAS CLEARLY IRRITATED ABOUT THIS WHEN HE ARRIVED IN CARACAS ON HIS RECENT VISIT, BUT HIS GENERAL REACTION WAS CALM AND CIVILIZED. CAP ALSO BELIEVES THE JUNTA FEELS ITSELF POLITICALLY WEAK AND THEREFORE MAY ACTUALLY BE INTERESTED IN CREATING EXTERNAL TENSION AS A WAY TO BOLSTER ITSELF INTERNALLY.

C) WHILE CAP DOES NOT THINK THERE IS IMMINENT DANGER OF PLANNED HOSTILITIES, HE DOES THINK THE GENERAL SITUATION IS UNSTABLE. ILL FEELINGS, REVANCHISM, AND FELT GRIEVANCES CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH HOSTILITIES COULD BREAK OUT UNEXPECTEDLY AND WITHOUT ANYONE WISHING IT OR PLANNING IT. AN INCIDENT OR HOTHEAD COULD PROVIDE A SPARK FOR AN IRRATIONAL BLOW-UP. THEREFORE SOME INITIATIVES TO LOWER THE LONG RANGE TEMPERATURE WOULD BE IMPORTANT.

D) HE UNDERSTANDS THAT ADMIRAL PARODI IS CURRENTLY IN SANTIAGO HAVING SATISFACTORY TALKS WITH THE CHILEANS WHICH SHOULD KEEP THINGS CALM OVER THE SHORT-RUN (SEE PARA 3 BELOW). SINCE PARODI IS A  
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PERSONAL FRIEND OF ADMIRAL POVEDA IN QUITO, CAP SAID HE PLANNED TO SUGGEST TO MORALES BERMUDEZ THAT THE SEND PARODI TO QUITO TO TALK TO POVEDA AND CALM THINGS DOWN THERE.

E) CAP SAID HE WAS GOING TO TALK TO LOPEZ AGAIN AND SUGGEST THAT COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA--AS AN ANDEAN PACT INITIATIVE--MIGHT URGE MODERATION AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACHES TO THE REGION'S PROBLEMS.

F) THE PROBLEMS WILL NEVER BE ELIMINATED HOWEVER UNTIL PERU AND ECUADOR TALK TO EACH OTHER ABOUT THEIR TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS, AND UNTIL A CONSTRUCTIVE FORMULA IS AGREED UPON TO GIVE BOLIVIA CONSTRUCTIVE MARITIME ACCESS. AS REGARDS THE FIRST, HE SAID MORALES BERMUDEZ TOLD HIM THAT PERU CONSIDERS THE BORDER DELIMITATION QUESTION CLOSED AND SETTLED, BUT WOULD CONSIDER SOME FORMULA TO GIVE ECUADOR ACCESS TO THE AMAZON BASIN. AS TO GHE SECOND, HE THOUGHT

THAT SEVERAL NATIONS MIGHT GUARANTEE A BOLIVIAN ACCESS FORMULA AND UNDERWRITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA. SOME SORT OF SPONSORING FRAMEWORK BY A GROUP OF "GODFATHERS" WOULD SEEM IMPORTANT IN BOTH CASES.

G) HE THOUGHT "THE US AND VENEZUELA" MIGHT BE VERY CONSTRUCTIVE IN THIS REGARD. HE DID NOT THINK THE U.S. SHOULD ACT ALONE BECAUSE IT WOULD LOOK LIKE UNCLE SAM'S PATERNALISM AGAIN. HE HAD NO SPECIFIC SCENARIO IN MIND, BUT I INVITED HIM TO GIVE US ANY THOUGHTS HE MIGHT HAVE AS TO WHAT CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE THE U.S. MIGHT PLAY.

H) HE THINKS THE ARMS QUESTION AN IMPORTANT ONE. CAP SAID HE TICKED THE RUSSIANS OFF FOR PROVIDING ARMS TO PERU. HE SAID BREZHNEV DENIED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD SELL PERU PLANES, BUT THAT MORALES BERMUDEZ HAD CONFIRMED TO HIM THAT PERU WAS GOING TO ACQUIRE  
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SOVIET PLANES (CAP SAID MIGS). HE SAID THAT HE TOLD BREZHNEV THAT IF THE SOVIETS PROVIDED MORE ARMS IT WOULD INFLAME THE SITUATION AND HE WOULD BLAME THE SOVIETS FOR INCREASED TENSION. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, CAP HAD NO SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT THE AMERICAN NATIONS MIGHT DO ABOUT ARMS LIMITATION BUT SAID THAT IT WAS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC TO TACKLE.

3. IN DESCRIBING PARODI'S ACTIVITIES, CAP READ FROM A REPORT FROM THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN LIMA OUTLINING THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING VIGNETTE: THE AMBASSADOR WAS SUMMONED TO THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN OFFICE AND INFORMED OF AN INITIATIVE UNDERTAKEN BY THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN ARGENTINA. THE LATTER TOLD THE PERUVIAN AMBAASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES THAT HE HAD TALKED TO GENERAL VIDELA ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OAS FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING TO DEAL WITH THE BOLIVIAN/ CHILEAN/PERUVIAN SITUATION. THE PERUVIAN FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL INFORMED THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR THAT NO SUCH INITIATIVE WAS DESIRED OR NECESSARY BECAUSE PERU WAS HANDLING THE PROBLEM BILATERALLY WITH CHILE, AND THAT PARODI WAS NOT IN SANTIAGO FOR THAT PURPOSE HAVING SATISFACTORY DISCUSSIONS. CAP SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THAT HIS AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES HAD UNDERTAKEN ANY SUCH INITIATIVE NOR WHY, AND HE HAD ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION.

4. COMMENT: IN SUM, CAP IS NOT ALARMED ABOUT ANY IMMINENT HOSTILITIES. HE WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW UP WITH SOME SOOTHING TOGETHER WITH LOPEZ BUT HE DOES

NOT THINK WE NEED BE WORRIED ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE  
SITUATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE IS WORRIED ABOUT  
THE LONG-TERM CIRCUMSTANCES AND FEELS THAT SOME KIND  
OF SUPPORTIVE HELP TO LOWER THE LONG-TERM TENSION IS  
WARRANTED, THOUGH HE HAS SUGGESTED NOTHING SPECIFIC  
TO CATALYZE IT.

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## Message Attributes

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